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# The California Garden

*Published Monthly by the San Diego Floral Association*

*One Dollar per Year, Ten Cents per Copy*

Vol. 8 POINT LOMA, CALIFORNIA, SEPTEMBER 1916 No. 3

WE have been deluged with literature for publication that proves to the apparent satisfaction of somebody that the Democratic government, with President Wilson as chief offender, has been anything but a friend to the farmer, and presumably as it was sent to us, the gardener, even away off here in San Diego. We thank God that our job is in no sense political, so we don't have to publish any of it, but in these times of high prices it seems only fair to mention that we have received it, after such a lavish expenditure of paper and stamps. We might say however that when we have applied for a job our application had to be based upon our own fitness and not the demerits of the other fellow. Various chambers of Commerce have also circularized us about the eight-hour bill apparently with the idea that we have influence at Washington. Intending communicants will please take notice that we have no influence there or anywhere else, and we still think the average person has as much intelligence about voting as ourselves. This does not necessarily apply to local elections.

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STRAWS show the way the wind blows. Admitting this, should we not take cognisance of the need as expressed by the number of little parties all over town that meet to pitch horseshoes, play croquet or the more strenuous tennis. To play is recognized as legitimate, even by the man who makes a business of blowing his nose, and those who have the facilities to do so are often preserved from less innocuous pursuits. Why not have a series of vacant lots cleaned, leveled and lighted, a few benches and a few dozen discarded horseshoes from the city shoesmith would start them off. Of course our wonderful city park is lacking in playing facilities. Before we have insisted that these are as much a part of modern park equipment as grass and flowers, and instanced the tennis bowls, baseball, cricket and horse racing in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. Where in the wide world is there a better place for all the year round out-of-door games than San Diego? Some one answers, "Quito," but we only have a vague notion of its location as being something nearer the stars than we dwell.

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A CERTAIN Professor Summerton has been conducting a series of electrical experiments to make rain in Australia, and the Sunday supplement has turned these into an illustrated page of mysterious references to positive and negative qualities, volcanoes, cyclones, vacuums and things it calls "ions". If it is not the invention of the weird genius of the newspaper specialist in startling items, something has been accomplished which may be the beginning not only of making but preventing rain. We wish to emphasize the prevention for the readers who still have to negotiate the "thank'e maams" in their travel (our road is fixed).

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YEARS AGO we worked as all kinds of a devil on a small paper. It was during a presidential election and the editor and owner knew absolutely where lay the salvation of the country and freely said as much in his columns. At various times he sought to get an expression for or against out of us but we kept mum. After the polling the editor said to us, "It is all over now and it does not matter, but just how did you vote?" We admitted we had paired with him. "Well," he said, "I am disappointed, after all I wrote, too." We needed the job so we did not tell him he wrote altogether too darned much, and as his man won out and the country was safe for four years he forgave our thickheadedness.

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Note the Association Meeting Dates and Places on Page 14

# The Lath House

*By ALFRED D. ROBINSON*

THIS noon I said to the keeper of the lathhouse, either you write the lathhouse article yourself or you give me coffee, real percolated coffee from the roasted bean, not the lima variety, nor the instantaneous kind or any other of the insulting substitutes and I will be drunken upon it right here in your lathhouse. The keeper chose the inebriated alternative and is really responsible for this, the result.

Whisper it not in the East nor mention it to the North lest the sons-of-a gun there rejoice and the evaporated triumph but it has been pretty cool this season for a lathhouse and there are signs of Fall showing, not to the casual observer, but they are there for the loving eye that understands. The tuberous begonias are shedding leaves and exposing more stalk than is really decent, and buds are dropping without blowing. This means careful watering if they are to continue to make a display and all dropped stems, blooms and leaves must be gathered up daily. particularly must it be watched that no detached matter be left upon live portions or quick decay will follow, further morning watering is indicated. All through the lathhouse remove all spent growth so as to give air and light. If you want to identify your begonia tubers for next year's planting it is not too early to mark them, for at any moment they may conclude to go on strike and lay down on their blooming job.

Still they come, more lathhouses in the building, three reported since last month. It is most encouraging because so sane. Time and time again the visitor says, "Oh do you think I could have a lathhouse at home?" and truth and loyalty for once cooperating the reply must be that in San Diego the lathhouse reaches its ultimate fruition. The unfortunate dwellers elsewhere even in nearby points of California heave great sighs and say "Of course we could not do that" and are feign to take cold comfort over the fact that some growths require the strenuous conditions of their home location.

The bed of tiger lilies has well demonstrated their right to a place in the lathhouse where they grow taller and acquire a grace that the outside planted usually lack; being short and stiff and unbending, eight blooms were counted on one stalk. The Speciosum lilies have also bloomed well as did Henryi, both deserve a place, and the Hemerocallis Kwanso is also worth while with its double tawny blooms, even if they last but for a day.

Among plants sent by the Bureau of Plant Importation was an Aristolochia Galleata, No. 37893, planted in February, 1915. This has just bloomed, if one can apply such a term to such a gargoyle of an inflorescence. It is a climber of the same family as the Dutchman's pipe. Without hoping to convey any real idea of its enormity let it be said that this flower starts out to be the inflated bag on a vacuum sweeper, it then changes its mind and concludes to be a pelican's beak upside down but the effort is too much and the upper mandible which is really the pouch droops away and twists disconsolately. The color is a drab purple relieved with yellowy mottlings and it smells unpleasantly. Thus does Uncle Sam reward us for nursing his experiments. As oddities the Aristolochia family are interesting, the foliage is good and they are not so rampant in growth as to be troublesome. In this connection don't plant cobea scandens on a lathhouse, it has no sense of proportion or decency in growth.

While on the subject of vines, Stigmaphyllon ciliatum, quite a modest subject in spite of that name, is also about to bloom. It was planted last year and has made just a moderate growth, but would have done better no doubt in a warmer season. This vine is in the glasshouse at the Exposition and has a very interesting yellow blossom like a glorified canary vine. It should be valuable for our lathhouses.

At the last Floral meeting with Dr. Webster, Miss Sessions exhibited a spray of Quisqualis Indica grown in the covered patio of the Timken residence. Perhaps nothing more beautiful than this specimen has ever been shown in the history of so many beautiful things at these meetings and it should be a cause of big rejoicing that it can be grown with us. Miss Sessions gave an interesting account of how it got its name, which is a Latinised version of "What is it" and reported two specimens growing outside in San Diego. In appearance it was like a glorified spray of pear blossom. When first opening it is white, turning to a red. There is a large vine in the conservatory in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, and two years or more ago Mr. McLaren sent me a plant for experimental planting at Point Loma. It is still alive but has never bloomed and made but little growth. After seeing that specimen brought by Miss Sessions I am almost inclined to build a glass house over it. It is a native of Malaya and does very well in Hawaii.

Are you getting your cinerarias and primulas ready for your lathhouse? If not why not?

# Growing The Dahlia

*By A. D. ROBINSON*

DURING the past month I have had many dahlia callers; not the kind of folks who go into ecstacies over the lovely "chrysanthemums" as they front a bed of Doazons, but people who know and grow dahlias and my head has alternately swelled and contracted. It expanded considerably when a dahlia specialist gazed with watering mouth upon my white paeony, Star in the East, and admitted its claim to be Queen of the Whites, and again when a professional sought terms for some of the tubers intimating that $5 a tuber was an ordinary price, and it contracted when the first gentleman spoke of its being particularly desirable as requiring little disbudding, from which I learned that in the northern part of the state real dahlia growers disbud their plants as incidentally as the growers of mums, and all this time I have been advocating the practice as an innovation. I might add that Minnie Bergle was most highly endorsed as a deep red bedder of good keeping qualities when cut.

A word about bedding varieties; the very best for this purpose will be found among the singles, because of their tendency to branch more freely and bear their blooms above the foliage. I do not refer particularly to the large singles, but those of medium size and striking color mostly in red shades with yellow markings in some cases. We have run to size because our chief objective has been the individual flower, but now that the immense value of this plant as a bedder is being recognized we must plan for mass effect. Growers of seedlings therefore should be on the lookout for desirable bedding singles. In brief, the qualifications sought should be good bold color, vigorous not weedy growth, marked remontant habit of blooming, by which is meant to keep on branching and blooming instead of expanding all energy on one big effort, and an attractive well serrated foliage. If any one has one answering this specification let it be saved and the clump divided and planted as an individual patch next year in a sunken bed with a good mulch so that nothing but periodic waterings will be necessary and it will give the most for the least outlay of anything in the summer garden.

Souvenir de Gustav Doazon (the pronunciation of this takes practice, for that last simple looking word is none so easy as it has inflections and accents out of all proportion to its size) is still my chief obsession. It has surpassed itself this year, the two beds giving numbers of blooms in excess of eight inches and one over ten. Several people have called upon it as if it were something new instead of a very old friend. One man sought to buy tubers saying he had found difficulty in getting dahlias true to name. The soil in which they are growing was not specially fertilized for the dahlias but had been for pansies before hand and twice a week a careful removal of all spent blooms and a thorough disbudding is practiced.

It is now too late to cut back dahlias with any good hope of getting a second crop so keep off all seed pods and feed liberally. The cooler nights with fog or dew are conducive to better dahlias and the blooming period should easily extend for two months yet.

A night-blooming jack-rabbit has caused me much damage with dahlias this year. He sits up later and gets up earlier than I can manage and I have seriously thought of putting a price on his head among the youths of the neighborhood. He has permanently discouraged numerous plants by not allowing them any growth above ground. In fairness it should be said that all the evidence against the jack-rabbit family is circumstantial and it may be other devilments. The quail are not entirely free from suspicion and I would that some of the sentimentalists who sing hymns to this harmless little fellow could have the armies of them in their grounds that now overrun my place. If the council had to spread their protective wings over all the quail on Point Loma they might have kept quiet about it as with its publication the noisy nests have pre-empted every tree on the place; they take the first fruits of every crop, eat more grain than my chickens, and adding insult to injury at peep of dawn insist upon my "getting right up".

This year I have had more tubers rot in the ground than ever before. The cold season partly accounts for it no doubt, but I also sense a need of a liberal application of lime to the beds and strongly recommend this treatment during the winter. Years ago I lived among the peatlands of Orange county and remember the mammoth potatoes that grew there and have had many visions of dahlias on that soil that would put a Russian sunflower to shame.

The season is passing and it behooves everybody to mark their plants and make their lists for next season.

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Why don't you give us a chance to help solve some of your garden problems?

# A Talk on Bulbs

*By Miss Mary Matthews*

WHILE the weather will probably continue to be dry and warm during this month it is none too soon to make plans for the planting of bulbs during the next two or three months. The ground where they are to be placed should be well spaded or forked over to the depth of twelve or more inches. If heavy, add sand, most bulbs prefer a loose, rich loam, so that they can make good root growth which is very essential in securing fine blooms—the ground should be moderately moist when the bulbs are put in. If wet on soggy the base of the bulb will often rot before root growth commences. A handful of sand beneath a choice bulb will often save it from decay.

As has been said often before the majority of bulbous things grow so well here and with comparatively little care that our gardens ought to be full of them in the spring and early summer. With the exception of tulips, which are gorgeous the first season and then either disappear or fail to bloom the second season, the majority of the Dutch bulbs can be left in the ground for several seasons and give good blooms. Some, like the freesias and oxalis, increase so rapidly as to become a nuisance, still the latter makes a charming border in the early spring and no one would want to be without the fragrant freesias. While all bulbs do not want to go in the ground this month, it is not too early to send in your orders if you have not done so. The bunch flowered narcissus should go in this month. The best of these are the "paper white grandiflora", the grand monarque pure white with deep yellow cup and "soleil d'or" or "golden sun" pure golden yellow. Also at this time if you like them, put in the Chinese sacred lily. The true daffodills or narcissus can be put in through October and November and give good flowers. Abroad there is a craze for these, some paying as high as fifty dollars for a single bulb, but there are many beautiful kinds at only a few cents per dozen so that you can plant en masse if you wish—a good rule for planting bulbs, except lilies which want to go deep in the ground, is to cover the top of the bulb with one and a half times its own depth. If your soil is very light put in somewhat deeper. Plant three to six inches apart according to size of the bulb. Small bulbs look better planted in groups of from eight to twelve. When ordering do not forget the sweet scented jonquils. I have tried several times without success to bloom the beautiful double white poets narcissus "The alba plena odiata" and have been told that the trouble was lack of moisture, that they want to be grown under almost swampy conditions. Next in popularity to the narcissus comes the Spanish Iris, easily grown, and very fine for cuttings, as also are the anemones and ranunculus. These two want a rich, deep sandy loam and abundant moisture and require some care to bring them to perfection. Another old favorite is the ornithogalum arabicum—Arabian star of Bethlehem. There are several varieties of these but this is the only one that is grown here. This bulb seems to have the faculty of moving itself underground, it blooms in one spot and the next season may appear some little distance away with no growth in the old spot. Leucopum vernum "spring snowflake" grows blooms and increases enormously under shrubs very similar to the lily of the valley without the fragrance.

Alliums also grow with but little care in ordinary garden soil. They are decorative in the garden especially var. neapolitanum graniflorum but they have a very disagreeable odor when handled. Then there is a host of small subjects scillas, ixias, sparaxis, grape hyacinths, etc., all of which are easily grown and add charm to the spring time garden. Don't neglect your callas because common-place. They are gross feeders and need ample water to give the finest blooms.

I am still wishing to hear that some bulb grower has started a lily garden on a somewhat extensive scale. If so, Lilium Candidium ought to go in this month as they make their root growth during the winter. These are variously known as Madonna Lily, The St. Joseph's Lily and Cottage Garden Lily". When planting do not omit to give each bulb its cushion of sand around and underneath to secure good drainage and preventing rot. When making out your list include dielytra spectabilis, the old favorite "bleeding heart."

(To be Continued.)

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### ROSA GENTILIANA

This new Rose is a strong-growing species, making tangled bunches of from twelve to fifteen feet high and from fifteen to twenty feet in diameter. The leaves are 5-foliolate, dark glossy green above and glaucous below, but when young they are reddish, more especially on the underside. The flowers are pure white, about an inch in diameter and delightfully fragrant; they are borne in broad clusters and are followed by orange-red fruits. Unlike the ordinary garden roses, it should not be pruned.

# Cupheas

By P. D. Barnhart

THIS interesting family of plants is not appreciated by gardeners on this coast, as much as it deserves to be, especially by those who reside along the coast, from Santa Barbara to San Diego.

For the shrubby border they are not surpassed for beauty, by any other plants that I grow. Except when severe frosts occur during the rainy season, the four species that I shall refer to at this time are quite hardy, and they all luxuriate during our long, dry season, if planted in rich soil, given plenty of water, and in a location where they get full sun all day.

I may say that those growing on the estate in my care, were covered with three inches of snow last season, for forty-eight hours, yet only the tenderest portions of the tops were damaged, but this was no material difference, since they require severe pruning every spring to keep them in good condition.

The species named Micropetala is a robust, shrubby subject; to what size it will attain I have yet to learn. It is now two years old; four feet tall and five feet diameter at the base; a dense mass of foliage and of flowers, during nine months of the year. Its habit is erect, and rigid; rough and harsh to the touch.

The flowers are orange and red colored; an inch long, and as its specific name implies the petals are very small, indeed so diminutive are they, that a good glass is necessary to assist the eye to see them, of which there are six, while there are twelve calyx teeth. The species to which the name Llavea has been applied is, in my opinion, the most gorgeous one of the four. The colors, red, white and blue are distinct and pronounced. The pistil, stamens and anthers, all of which protrude beyond the calyx, are white, and, being of small size, the color is not as conspicuous as the other two.

Cuphea ignea is the "cigar" plant of florists of the east, and while not as spectacular as Llavea, is very floriferous, and desirable for sunny borders. The one known as Hyssopifolia is a woody, diminutive species, interesting only to lovers of plants who have botanic collections. The interesting thing about this family: named Lythraceae, is that the calyx tube is the showy part of the flower, except in the case of the species Llavea, moreover some have petals, and some have none. Their study would be profitable to the teacher who attempts to direct the thoughts of pupils in Nature Study.

Indeed it would be time spent in a pleasing and satisfying manner by all lovers of plants to study the widely different characteristics of the four subjects here discussed.

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# THE GARDEN FOR SEPTEMBER

By Walter Birch

There are two vegetables that are particularly in season now for planting, namely cauliflower and peas, and both are very well worth having. The former you can either sow the seed or set out the plants as you would cabbage. Peas planted now with the long cool nights approaching will do well. Both crops will be helped out by spading in some well rotted manure after wetting down the ground so that it digs easily. It is also possible to get pretty good seed potatoes again now, they are always hard to procure during the summer months. A few planted now in the home garden should be ready for digging before any danger of frost. Prepare your land for these the same as for the cauliflower and peas, not forgetting the manure, and when plants are well up irrigate by furrow about once every two weeks, and cultivate thoroughly. If you cannot easily get manure, use a little nitrate of soda at the rate of a good handful to a pail of water and pour it in a furrow along by the roots of your plants, and you will find that it is a great booster. You can also plant garlic and onion sets now, and sow seed which is very scarce this year. Continue to sow lettuce, radish, turnips, carrots, etc., and keep your ground fairly moist and well cultivated as evaporation is still pretty great.

By October we will be getting our Dutch bulbs again, but just now you can plant Watsonias, oxalis, callas and cannas. Of the latter there are some large blooms and wonderful shades of color to be had. The gladioli are also in season and by planting from time to time you can have a constant succession of blooms. Look out for insect pests on your trees, shrubs and plants and keep some spraying material within reach.

You will find Black Leaf Forty, which is a very strong Nicotine Spray a capital thing for plant lice, beetles, etc. Lime and sulphur solution are good for red spider and purple scale and Talbot's Scale Spray will knock pretty nearly anything in the scale line.

# Monthly Excursion Through Exposition Grounds

*By G. R. GORTON*

THE water gardens have more than fulfilled their promise, and a display the like of which has not been seen in this part of the world for many a day now greets the visitors to the Exposition. In three ponds the aquatics have lavished bloom and foliage with a prodigality which leaves nothing to be desired, except perhaps that the beholder might have a little of the same in his own gardens—and why not? The writer has proven to his own satisfaction at least, that after the agony of the first cost is over, and this need not be great, the requirements of a water garden as to maintenance and even as to water are much less than one of the same area, or greater, on terra firma.

One may have a water garden in any size from a tub or half barrel, to several acres, the satisfaction increasing all out of proportion to the area.

This year the water gardens have been very much augmented by the addition of many more specimens of Lotus and Lilies, including the wonderful Victoria Cruziana. This, the so-called Amazon Lily, was found in Corrientes Argentina in 1840 but was not introduced to the U. S. until 1894, since when it has proved itself a valuable addition to the ranks of aquatics in that it is much hardier than Vregia and will stand at least 10° lower temperature than the latter. However, the summer months this year lacking the usual amount of warm weather, the Victorias have not thrived as they might have. Under favorable conditions the leaves have been known to attain a diameter of over five feet, with rims 5 or 6 inches in diameter. The leaves at any size are exceedingly interesting, especially the underside, which is reinforced and braced with a heavy corded veination standing somewhat away from the leaf. When one considers that on large leaves these veins become as large as a man's wrist or larger, it is not difficult to see from whence the great strength of these leaves is derived.

The Victorias are night bloomers, the flowers opening at dusk, remaining open all night and until the middle of the following forenoon when they close partly, opening again at nightfall. The color changes from white at time of opening to pink at the time of the second closing which completes its existence as a flower.

In the extreme southwest and southeast

corners of the large lagoon facing the Botanical Building are groups of lilies of the gracilis type. This species numbers among its several varieties and descendants some of the most beautiful of water lilies. The planting contains representatives of N. gracilis purpuria, and N. gracilia rosea perfecta. Adjoining the gracilia group on the west side of the pool are a number of specimens of the marliacea type including N. Marliacea albida (white) cornea (flesh pink) and chromatella (yellow). Flowers borne by the varieties of this species are very large and very fragrant.

In the corresponding position on the east side of the lagoon are some of the rarer and more recent introductions. Two of these are especially beautiful viz., Virginalis, white, and Mrs. Richmond a magnificent pink. At the opposite end of the pool, along the west side, and furthest away from the ballustrade are one or two specimens of the famous Zanzibar lily (N. Zanzibarensis). This species is the true royal purple lily of Africa and enjoys the distinction of being the best of its color in cultivation and this much is apparent to even the most casual observer. The Zanzibar lily is of the tender day flowering class, flowers freely during the entire season, and is deliciously fragrant.

Nearby and also in a corresponding position on the opposite side of the pool are specimens of the variety Geo. Huster, a brilliant crimson, which is also one of the elite, but is of another class, viz., the tender night flowering group. This variety is descended from N. O. Marana a blueblood among its class, and has inherited all of its good qualities, but is of a deeper and brighter color than its progenitor.

The small square pool adjoining the Botanical Building, the one which the Exposition, with a penchant for Spanish names has termed La Lagunita, is a floating rainbow of color. The stately Lotus, the sacred flower of antiquity, is enthroned in each of the two corners nearest the building and up to now has been crowned with diadems of pink and white. It is not surprising that a flower of such beauty should have been revered by the Egyptians, by whom it was consecrated to Osiris and therefore is held to be symbolic of generation, life resurrection and immortality. From the shape of the Lotus flower it is naturally associated with the worship of Osiris, suggesting as it does the rays of the sun—which Osiris personified. Nor was the symbolic use of the Lotus confined to the Egyptians. Devout Brahmans believed that Brahma came forth from a Lotus blossom, and something of the sort connects it with the worship of Buddha.

Probably most conspicuous lily in La Lagumita is the deservedly popular Pennsylvania, located centrally along the north edge of the pool. Its immense deep blue flowers borne well above the water along sturdy stems, are showy indeed. The other extreme is the tiny Pygmaea helvola near center and down stage as it were, whose pale yellow flowers seldom exceed a couple of inches or so in diameter—a sort of a toy water lily, but very attractive.

The "auxiliary" plants, some aquatic and some semi-aquatic, contain several interesting species. The Sagittaria, Giant arrowhead, bearing large spikes of white flowers, is a helpful adjunct to any water garden. The same is true of Scirpus tabernaemontana—well named Porcupine Plant, whose rush like leaves are transversely striped green and white very much in the same manner as the quills of a porcupine. Limnocharis Humboldii the Water Poppy, looks for all the world like a California Poppy in swimming.

Then, of course, in the marginal planting are the inevitable Papyrus, Cyperus, etc., which we have always with us, but which after all are probably indispensable to a planting of this kind.

In the lagoon in Cabrillo canyon possession has been granted to Lotus, which has justified the confidence reposed in it by making a magnificent display. The conditions in this location seem to be peculiarly suitable for their culture, and the growth is truly remarkable. The Water Hyacinth has also done justice to the situation.

The Canna beds north of the California Building have quite come into the fulness of their glory. It sometimes seems to a casual observer as if the term **bed** as applied to plantings of some varieties of flowers was somewhat of a misnomer, inasmuch as the term is ordinarily associated with sleep. There is nothing sleepy or dormant or even restful about these beds of cannas. They are alive, ablaze exhilarating. One of the beds near the center of the garden is occupied by Uncle Sam, tall, conspicuous, and impressive—quite aptly named, King Humbert in the southwest bed is truly regal in aspect with bright scarlet flowers and rich bronzy foliage. Apparently this variety is one of the progenitors of Firebird. This is entirely surmise, however.

The Firebird canna is well displayed, in several beds, and is a decided addition to the goodly company of desirable cannas. Possibly the proportion of new introduction in plants which are really worth while would be something like one in one hundred or in a thousand, but whatever it is, Firebird is that one. The petals are unbelievably large, very similar in color to King Humbert, but with bright green foliage.

Venus is a beauty, of course, as its name would indicate, but in a modest way. A dainty little shell pink thing with the petals edged and somewhat blotched with pale yellow. This variety is dwarf in habit.

Most lovers of cannas will agree that the variety Mrs. A. F. Conard is one of the most

satisfactory cannas in cultivation. In the catalogues it is classed as a standard sort, which sometimes is a polite way of saying that a variety is passé. There has been no more recent introduction, however, which threatens to supersede Mrs. Conard as a desirable pink canna. It is one of the most floriferous both in quantity and duration of bloom.

Wyoming is another of the giants, attaining to a height of eight feet or so, very striking both in its rich orange flowers and its very attractive bronzy foliage.

Another recent hybridization which was first introduced last year is the variety San Diego. This city may well be proud of its namesake canna, the only stock of which is in the Exposition grounds. The flowers are large, of the orchid type, and of what the originators are pleased to term persian yellow in color. I am not sure I know what persian yellow is, but if this is it, I am strong for it. Added to the charm of the flower is that of the foliage, the leaves being bronzy in color, very wide and very decorative. This variety attains to about 5 or 6 ft. in height.

Italia is another Brobigidian sort, rising to 8 feet or so in height, its flowers of a pale orange color edged and blotched with canary yellow.

Panama, a comparatively new variety is quite an attractive type, dwarf in habit, not much over 3 ft. in height, and bright red edged with gold, and with a gold spot or two in the center.

This is aster time in Southern California and the Exposition has an attractive bed of them in the rear of the Government Building which is worth going to see, as are also and still more so those south of the Organ Building. The seeker will find much more of interest in this same planting, but it will be still better in a month or so when the Chrysanthemums have added their quota of bloom.

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# *The Praying Mantis*

*By JOSHUA L. BAILY, Jr.*

AMONG that group of insects known as Orthoptera, which includes grasshoppers, crickets, and roaches, occurs an extreme form known as the Praying Mantis, from its habit of holding its first pair of arms folded up beneath its face while resting, as in the attitude of prayer. Probably more erroneous statements have been made about this insect than any other, and certainly none was ever the subject of such extreme and peculiar superstitions. The disciples of Islam maintain that it always prays with its face turned toward Mecca, the Greeks considered it sacred, the mediaeval European races have claimed that it shows lost children the way home by indicating the direction with one hand, and the Hottentots regard as specially favored any one on whose clothing it may alight. But despite all this, there is only one sense in which the Mantis may be said to prey, and that is on the smaller and weaker insects around it. The terminal segments of the arms are provided with knife-blade edges and a line of sharp spines, enabling it to hold a death grasp on its victim. And then the feast begins. The Mantis begins at once to devour its prey, but generally drops it after the first few bites still palpitating with what little life remains, and then searches for new victims. This trait makes them available as flytraps in tropical countries where they abound, as they soon rid the windows in which they are placed of all insect life. Even their own kind are not immune from their voracity, and the Chinese have taken advantage of this fact in a rather remarkable way, by breeding and selecting for fighting. When the event takes place, all those with sporting inclinations assemble about a table. Then the owners of the competing mantids approach with their favorite animals in grass cages. At the appointed time they release the mantids, who spring at each other, and the fight is on. Great excitement prevails. Bets are placed. It is said that sometimes fortunes change hands in a very few minutes. And when one of the combatants finally secures a half-nelson on his weaker opponent, he gradually bends his head back until he can sink his jaws in the throat of his antagonist, and the battle is over, for the neck of the mantis is its weak point. Unlike most insects that can't move their heads without turning their whole bodies, the mantis has a neck so free and pliable that it can turn its head and look down its back, and so soft that it can offer no resistance to the fierce spines on the arm of another mantis.

These animals inhabit warmer climates, and are mostly nocturnal, which explains why they are not more generally seen and observed.

# Pickings and Peckings

*By THE EARLY BIRD*

THIS question was put to me without any softening preliminaries the other day, "Are all plant lovers cranks?" For some inscrutable reason I felt put upon the defensive and somewhat loudly answered, "No"! I have reflected upon my answer since and am inclined to qualify it, for I believe from the average standpoint a real gardener has GOT to be a crank. The good book says a man cannot serve two masters and this is true of gardening which is a jealous master. If one would dress his best and be nicely manicured and creamed, his garden is apt to look its worst. The ordinary person thinks of dirt and smells where the gardener finds soil and plant food and the former thinks the garden made for him while the latter must have a suspicion that he was made to tend the garden. In brief the gardener who is yet a small minority has a viewpoint that the majority cannot even sense, let alone appreciate. There is no such thing as fractional gardener. One is IT or nothing.

I must not be misunderstood to imply that if one elects to garden he must forsake kith and kin and cleave only to his garden, but I do mean that he must fully sense the obligation implied in starting out as a guardian of living organisms of extreme delicacy which at various stages of their development cannot brook even an adverse wind, an obligation that should bind him to a strict care for the needs of his charges. I say "him" all the time because I deem it safer, but the principle is the same irrespective of race, creed, color or sex.

The gardener perforce wears clothes that don't show dirt. In the male baggykneed pants are likely, pockets seem extra numerous and loaded to the point of destroying symmetry, but preparedness in the garden is a sine qua non. Who shall say at what moment any of these things may be needed, knife, string, label, envelope for seed, nippers, wire, whetstone, notebook, pencil and all the rest of the tools of the trade. Of course the gardener's chief offence is that he cares very little how he looks and his own worst moments are when he really is decent and therefore ineffective.

Perhaps my questioner was rather referring to attitude of mind and manners. The gardener is apt to be direct if not a trifle brusque. His business lies with the works of God in which if he be honest he realizes man cuts very little ice. He can make conditions that tend for success or failure, then he is a spectator, a privileged spectator, in the wonderful theater of the garden. This tends to slough off a lot of what we call manners, it makes the gardener in the garden more careful of the flowers in it than the people. No defence of rudeness because of a gardening occupation is intended—the garden is not rude. There is a species of law of survival of the fittest, but the tree shelters the tiny seedling from the sun and wind and the slender grass and big sunflower neighbor. I am inclined to think there is a wonderful brotherhood in the garden, not a sentimental one but a beautiful tolerance and minding of one's own business.

The gardener is apt to be a poor conversationalist, a bad club member, an uncertain society equation but what would you have? His garden is alive. It is in a sense a baby. All the world excuses the idiosyncracies of a new parent.

Perhaps the real gardener is somewhat of a crank and for myself, if I may join the elect band of real gardeners I don't care a tumbling weed whether I be dubbed CRANK or not.

Last month I was impressed by the Civil Service to assist in conducting an oral examination of candidates for the position of Park Foreman. The deed was done up in the nursery of the Park and it helped to show me what an awful lot there is to this parking job. The candidates had been through a written examination calculated to appal all but those of the stoutest heart and then three real gardening cranks proceeded to exercise their crankiness upon them. Since that time I have thought of one question I wish I had asked (a man once told me he always asked it of any one seeking employment from him) it was, "Do you know enough to do nothing when you don't know how?" Just under what head it would have fitted I don't know but it is a vital thing in the garden. I did not ask it of a colored gentleman I once employed briefly to groom, etc., and in consequence he brought round my rig the next day with the horse wearing pieces of all the sets of harness I owned. The effect was glittering but distinctly unsafe, and when he was questioned he said he thought the best looking harness possible should go with the new rig so that he had selected all the shiniest pieces and made the glittering ensemble and hoped it would be accepted this time. He was a wonderful linquist but an unsafe groom.

Last month the editor commented upon this civil service application to the park force and its possible disadvantage. This possibility has not disappeared but it seems that the very efficient present occupant of the foreman's job is at present unqualified under

the civil service requirements and can be retained only by ordinance of the city council which in this case seems to think more of the service than it does of the Park. There never was a rule or regulation so good that it did not work a hardship somewhere, somehow, and this instance does not mean that civil service is no good.

After I had wiped the sweat from my brow that the before-mentioned examination had caused, I followed Superintendent Morley among thousands of young Primulas and Cinerarias, waiting in the shade of lath for the cooler weather. I saw bright coleus about to go into the formal garden at the Exposition, mums being taught the way they should grow, and countless marigolds with their golden harvest yet a mere promise. The casual visitor to the Park ought to see behind the scenes once in a while to appreciate the planning and work necessary to make Balboa Park.

# A Botanical Garden

By GUY L. FLEMING

A RECENT trip across the country impressed the writer, more than ever, with the possibility of San Diego's flora, rich as it is in trees and shrubs, as a foundation for the Botanical Garden that this city must some day have. And at the last meeting of the Floral Association it was suggested that as there was a great deal of interest shown as to the future of the Exposition grounds, the present seemed a favorable time to introduce the idea of a Botanical Garden. This suggestion was received with favor and a committee was appointed to investigate the matter and learn what might be done toward securing a permanent home for the Floral Association.

This committee met at the appointed time in the rooms of San Diego Society of Natural History, together with some of its members who are also interested in Botanical Gardens. Mr. Stephens, of the Natural History Society, presented the idea of forming a Botanical Garden Association as a branch of the Floral Association, its objects being: "to help improve the parks, and to carry on investigations along scientific lines." He said: "We think there are methods by which these two objects can be carried out together. In Balboa Park there is a considerable area in which but little planting has been done, and which the Park Commission will not be able to improve for several years. If an association can be formed and financed to improve some of this vacant land under conditions agreeable to the Park Commission it will relieve the Park Commission of that much expense and hasten the improvement of the park.

If well carried out such a Botanical Garden can be made an important addition to the city's attractions, and in time also a useful scientific institution.

The method I would propose for use in the park would be along "plant association" lines.

[This method was mentioned in an article on Wild Flower Gardens in the June number of the Garden.]

Select small typical tracts in various parts of the county, these tracts containing half an acre or more, with as large a variety as possible of native shrubs, trees, woody plants, yuccas or cacti. Photograph and map carefully these tracts and reproduce as exactly as possible in the park. Tracts should be selected from various altitudes and different local conditions so as to include all the typical plant associations of valley, mountain, foothill, mesa, and desert slope and ultimately include all the woody species of the county, at least as far as local conditions make this practicable."

This idea was discussed but no action taken, as it was decided that it was a matter that the whole association should vote on.

## Preserving Torrey Pines

IT is certainly a great pleasure to tell of the interest I find in the preservation of the Torrey Pines. All I have talked with on the subject have said, "Yes, something really should be done to protect those trees," and all have expressed a willingness to do their share.

In the city engineer's office; every courtesy was shown, and all the available maps and data were put at my disposal.

In the operating department I received permission for the Floral Association to label the pine trees on city lands, and to post fire warnings. From the maps I found that very few pines were the property of the city. The greater number, including the fine group on the cliff, are on land belonging to Miss Ellen Scripps. From another source I learned that some years ago certain San Diegans prevailed upon Miss Scripps to purchase the main body of pines, that they might be preserved until such a time as the people seemed ready to care for them. I am sure Miss Scripps will give permission to label certain trees on her property.

The placing of name plates on the trees

*Continued on Page 16*

# Soil and Irrigation

BETWEEN these two things, soil and irrigation, lies in a great measure the floricultural and horticultural future of this wonderful State of California, yet the best wisdom thereabout is but ignorance and the general ignorance appalling.

Observant cultivators know that our present methods of cultivation and irrigation are but makeshifts, in support of which one has but to investigate the best orchards which clearly show that a treatment good for the end trees has hurt the first row or two, or when the two ends are all right the middle has suffered.

A chemical analysis of soils is quite common but it is also frequent that a soil of good analysis does not yield as it should and vice versa. It would seem that there is a quality of texture in soil that has a big influence, a more or less elusive quantity that is involved in the thing that happens to ground very much compacted and which is commonly referred to as having lost its life, which it regains slowly with many stirrings and loosenings. Every one will remember an instance of a strip through a cultivated field where a road has been and which is plainly outlined in a dwarfed crop for years. This same packing out of the life seems to follow the process of irrigation with many of our soils, particularly those of heavier and richer quality, so that almost a pure sand will stand continuous irrigation better than any other soil. Cultivation following irrigation only affects a limited depth and if practiced at the same depth for a long period forms a hard road bed, so to speak, just below this.

The old method of throwing the ground into squares for irrigation has been largely abandoned for the slow running furrow treatment, but now investigation in some orchards shows that where these furrows have been run through the middle between trees for some time there are no roots there ,suggesting that the water has rotted them off, and the furrows have been shifted under the trees and a mulch used instead of so much irrigation. There is now an established market for lima bean straw for mulch in citrus orchards.

In this garden magazine it is not proposed to deal in detail with orchard irrigation, but so much has been said because it involves a principle. In our gardens of San Diego we have a very various soil. Because of our small rainfall we are almost continuous irrigators and those of us who care to know, and have been gardening any length of time, do know that irrigation as we practice it is not helping our soil. The average garden yields gradually poorer and poorer returns in spite of fertilizer galore; it loses life, becomes unkind to work, that is it clods and balls instead of sort of heaving and loosening of itself. We diagnose lime, and now almost every gardener has this as his Shibboleth, and doubtless it is really indicated where excessive irrigation and fertilization has caused a soil sourness, but there is also clearly indicated that a schedule for irrigation should be as various as are the variety of soils.

The writer of this is quite incapable of providing an irrigating schedule beyond the obvious point of suggesting that a stiff soil must be given time for water to percolate in while lighter kinds require a quicker stream, but the sub-soil is a greater factor in determining this than the top layer. In almost any part of our county can be found deep cuts where one can study the soil upbuild, and around the city these show a more or less shallow impervious strata. From this it is fair to deduce that our past salvation has been in our up-and-down condition which has given drainage, and this seems the fit place to remark that tile drainage is now being practised ever increasingly in California, not simply in the low lands but higher up where for years the owners have thought of nothing but getting water on and never dreamt of draining it off. This tile drainage does much more than take off surplus water, it is a big factor in aeration. It is not impossible that where levels will allow tile drainage will pass along surplus water from level to level.

China is an evidence that irrigation can be practised and soil fertility maintained, for, unless writers in number are much deceived, there the same land has been yielding good crops under irrigation for over a thousand years, which term will probably satisfy our western idea of maintenance, but the Chinaman or Jap in our country much prefers to rent land on short leases and in the term of such will suck out its life blood.

We have the advocates of surface, sub and overhead irrigation but do we any of us know anything worth while about it. The writer freely confesses he does not but would dearly love to.

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Have you paid your annual dues and subscription?

# The California Garden

Alfred D. Robinson, Editor
G. T. Keene, Manager
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### SEPTEMBER REGULAR MEETING

Remember the date of the September meeting of the Floral Association, which will be entertained by Mrs. M. Kew, 3224 Park Avenue, Tuesday evening, Sept. 19. Take Fifth Street cars to Spruce.

September 19—(a) "Iris and Kindred Plants." (b) "Soils and Fertilizers." With Mrs. M. Kew, 3224 Park Avenue.

October 17—(a) "Bulbs." (b) "Berry-bearing Plants and Shrubs." With Mrs. A. H. Sweet, 435 W. Spruce Street.

November 21—(a) "Trees." (b) "California Wildflowers." With Miss Alice Lee, 3564 Seventh Street.

### OCTOBER OUTDOOR MEETING

The Floral Association will hold an outdoor meeting at Kneale Park, Tuesday afternoon, October 3.

November 7—Mrs. George Sturges, Ocean Boulevard, Coronado.

## At the August Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the San Diego Floral Association met at the home of Mrs. I. D. Webster, on the evening of August 15, 1916.

The meeting was called to order by President Connell, and the business of the evening taken up at once.

The report of the Torrey Pine Park Committee embodied a recommendation that signs of educational trend be placed in conspicuous places among the pines. The "gist" of said signs to be that these pines, Pinus Torreyana, are the only ones of their kind in the world, except a few stragglers in the vicinity, and on a nearby island, and that all will please use their influence for their protection from fire and vandalism.

The subject of the evening was next discussed. Violets, and planting seed for winter blooms.

It was stated that August was a good month in which to plant the young violet plants, that they did best if replanted every two or three years, and although best in part shade with some sun, care should be taken that they were protected and not in a cold windy situation. A good way to plant is in rows not too close giving room to spread and to thin the foliage when it became too thick, and not to let them get dry. Besides the commonly known Viola odorata, the double and single white, and the wood violet were mentioned as desirable.

In regard to planting seed for winter blooming, winter stocks, pansies, winter sweet peas, nasturtium, calendulas, poppies were especially mentioned. The stocks should never be allowed to stop growing, too wet or too dry being disastrous.

We can only touch on all the helpful suggestions here, but come you to the meetings and get the real mysterious inside information that our successful gardeners and flower lovers divulge.

It was stated that now was the time to plan the getting of a Floral Association home and in pursuance of this suggestion Messrs. Fleming, Gorton, Robinson, Sumner, Mesdames Harris and Connell and Miss Sessions were put on a committee to meet at the Museum of Natural History rooms in the Cecil Hotel Tuesday at 5 p. m. The meeting now adjourned and highly enjoyed the beautiful effect from the rear garden, the twinkling lights over the surrounding country and the pleasant effect of the garden and pergolas.

R. W. SUMNER, Sec'y.

## Can it Be Done?

The new President of the San Diego Floral Association intimates that he thinks it would be better if the Garden came out somewhat earlier, and from the way he said it, I suspicion we had better make an extra effort this month and get our "copy" in before the first of October. This is written on the ninth of September and not all the copy for the September issue is yet in the printer's hands. It is just about a week's work to set, make-up, print, bind and mail the edition

after the copy is in the hands of the printer, so you can see the copy should really be in by September 25th. We can't **order** you to do this because already you have sacrificed much time and effort for the Garden, but if you WILL it will be mightily appreciated.

## Query Answered

Q. I shall be very much obliged if through the California Garden you would be so kind as to suggest some of the best bushes or shrubs suitable for a lawn. I do not want them to be taller than 6 or 8 feet when full grown. Would prefer something that can be kept pruned in symmetrical shape. The lawn faces the south and gets full sun all day. I thought of trying a plant of "Astilbe Davidii" advertised in Howard & Smith's catalogue. Have you had experience with this plant. I might add I have a plant of "Abelia Ruprestris" well shaped which is very satisfactory.—J. H. B.

A. Shrubs suitable for lawns with full sun exposure, not exceeding 6 to 8 feet when full grown are not very abundant. Abelia rupestris and Grevillia Thelemanniana are hard to duplicate for lawn shrubs of medium height. Leptospermum flavescens, dark green feathery and drooping foliage, small white blossoms, grows symmetrically. It **never** should be **severely trimmed.** Fine specimens are in the gardens of Mr. Jarvis Doyle and Mr. John Dement on Plumosa Way.

Melaleuca linarifolia, white flowering specimen, at Mr. J. Doyle's. Orangeberry Hawthorne, if too tall a grower, can be kept trimmed back; has fine berries for over six months. Cotoneaster pannosa, one of the finest of shrubs, grayish green foliage soft and graceful, a great abundance of red berries the entire length of stem, from October to February; specimens in Mr. F. L. Hieatt's garden on Sheridan avenue. Osteomeles anthyllioides, dainty shrub with creamy colored flowers penciled with scarlet, fine and choice.

One of the most promising of small shrubs is the new Lonicera nitida from China, distributed by the Arnold Arboretum. This will make extra choice specimen plants and small hedges. In two years it is three and a half feet high and twelve to eighteen inches in diameter. It has been rumored that when in berry Berberis stenophylla is one of the choicest of small shrubs. evergreen, dark yellow blooms, effective fruit, low spreading in habit. Erica melanthera is growing well in the city park, Golden Hill, in the open; should do well in a lawn but it is very sure to be a great success in partial shade also. Should never be cultivated around. Naudina is a very fine shrub of small growth, for lawn or near building. Astilbe Davidii is not known to writer and probably not in San Diego. The genera is known as small plants principally grown in pots for seasonal bloomers. It is worthy of a trial however.

Of the above first choice are Cotoneaster pannosa, Lonicera nitida Berberis stenophylla.—K. O. Sessions.

## Out-Doors at Braemar

I WENT to the meeting at Mrs. F. T. Scripps', at Braemar Manor, along that bridge across Mission Bay and over the flat strip of white sand which once was lovely sand dunes and my mind went back to the time when the metropolis of Ocean Beach consisted of two houses, one of them built of tin cans, and I used to lunch upon a sand dune where Wonderland now mournfully stands awaiting final dissolution. It was a high dune topped by a bunch of green stuff in which a rabbit took its siesta. One side was almost precipitous and it caught a wonderful light and shadow as the sun went down. From my dune I could see the long range across the neck of False Bay, a grey vertebra, relieved with mists of lavender where the sand verbena crawled and yellow in the spots where that hardy adventurer like a morning glory grew. Over them winged the wild duck in strange geometric forms, and being slack of understanding as to what constituted progress I sighed and wondered if the change had to be.

When I reached Braemar I found the hostess Mrs. Scripps was unavoidably absent. I feel in my bones she was afraid some one would congratulate her upon the coming of a street car to her door and the beautiful level strip of sand, which would have been torture to one who had sat and lived with those dunes for many years and loved them.

If it were possible that Mrs. Scripps could be not missed from a meeting of floral enthusiasts at Braemar, her daughter would have made that a fact, for taming her wild desire to ride the surf upon a prancing plank she slowly guided visitors round and round and answered all those obvious questions that even floral folks ask. I know, for I followed her and did that very thing.

In the lathhouse foregathered those past mistresses in all lathhouse lore, Mesdames Waite and Frevert, and they stood entranced before some tree begonias that went through the roof and were ablaze with scarlet bloom. Harking back to the days of Mrs. Theodosia Shepherd, of Ventura and begonia fame, Mrs. Waite opined that this flaming bush might be one of her introductions called Princess Alice, but I don't know what the final decision was. In any case the lady was royal whether Alice or Sup--yaw-lat of Mandalay.

Ferns grow in chunks in that lathhouse; not the little specimens with fifty leaves or so but by square yards and hundreds of

fronds. It is a wondrous demonstration of the efficacy of sand as a lathhouse base. Why, there is an Australian tree fern in there that is not content to grow as others of its kind, but has three distinct heads so that it was uncoiling seven fronds at the same time.

Just outside the lathhouse I met a chinese pheasant without a tail. It was a lady and she said "how rude, why did you take me unawares," and I wondered if I ought not to apologize to Mrs. Scripps for going at all in her absence.

When in the Indian adobe I was cross-questioned and I wish to state here that my questioners had better forget my answers as I was not responsible. No self respecting Indian will accept me as an interpreter. I don't know if I properly identified the wild animals that lie on the floor cooling their stomachs.

All you who went know it was worth while so why waste any more space. I enjoyed it all but that pheasant.

## Preserving Torrey Pines

*Continued from Page 12*

and the posting of notices, warning visitors about fires and displaying a brief history of the pines, should help very much in educating the public to respect them.

But we might do more, and at no great expense. Why not the Floral Association, and other city organizations, work out some scheme for the development and protection of this park? Annual outings might be planned, then the park laid out in sections according to the strength of the various organizations. There then would be a general clearing of all dry brush and other fire material, and then a trail building contest. These trails would open up new sections of the park and wonderful views, but most important of all would lessen the fire risk a great deal. A few men with "grub hoes" can make a considerable bit of trail in a few hours. And if there is a prospect of a good camp dinner at the end of the stint it is likely some records would be beaten.

There are a great many features that could be brought into such a plan, such as a "wood's play" staged in the main forest, where there is already a natural stage and ampitheatre, and the dedicating of trees or groups of trees in honor of organizations or people.

There is a possibility, too, of having these trees made a National monument. And if Col. Fay's plan of having the pueblo lands made a military post should materialize, the Torrey Pine section would very likely become part of the reservation and be made into a fine park.


## We're not *kicking*, mind you, but just the same that—

WHILE this is written Rosecroft has eleven chickens before the judge at the New York State Fair. We had figured on waiting for news before composing this, but in the meantime another pen at a California show failed to please the judge. Of course we never complain about judging decisions but—that judge must have had a bad case of strabismus and mental aberration, still we never criticise—yet a child in arms would have known, and—we never cavil only that man was not fit to clean out a coop much less—as we said before however we never take exception to a judgment though how any sane individual could—understand us, we know how to take our medicine but of all the—, and that is why we don't wait to hear from New York.

We are permitted to refer to that well known and highly respected citizen, Martha Ingersoll Robinson, whose name is familiar upon vacant lots and houses. Three Rosecroft pullets were purchased by her last month and they could not wait to get into their pen to lay, but dropped eggs between the express and their new quarters and have been at it ever since. This would not have appeared if the lady had taken space in the advertising columns of the Garden. Other delinquents beware.

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